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SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1951

SUBJECT Economic; Transportation - Water, port regula-  
tions

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 25 Feb 1952

WHERE  
PUBLISHED Istanbul

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE  
PUBLISHED 29 Aug 1951

LANGUAGE Turkish

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Yeni Istanbul.

DESCRIBES SHIP INSPECTION,  
CONDITIONS IN PORT OF CONSTANTA

The following information is from an article by T. Turker, a Turk who visited the Rumanian port of Constanta aboard a Turkish ship chartered by a foreign firm to carry cargo from France to Constanta. The name of the ship and date of entry are not given.

A pilot boarded the ship as soon as it had entered the Constanta harbor. He guided the vessel into an anchorage station. There a second pilot and a group of armed police boarded the ship, lined up the crew, and examined each man's identity card. They spoke with the captain, then searched the ship thoroughly for hours. They left an armed guard to watch over the crew during this process. The primary object of the search was to discover stowaways rather than to find contraband.

After the inspection the ship was permitted to dock. No one from the ship was allowed ashore. Guards with fixed bayonets patrolled the dock to prevent any contact between ship and shore. After 3 days of further formalities, one third of the crew was permitted ashore. Those leaving the ship were conducted to the customs office to undergo further questioning and inspection. Identity cards were taken away and temporary passes, valid to 2200 hours, were issued.

The sailors found that the one-time famous beaches and casinos were no longer in use. The city appeared dilapidated, and the people were shabbily dressed. The people were afraid to talk to the foreigners and refused to answer questions. However, they accepted cigarettes when not observed.

The few stores offer a meager supply of goods. Most of them are workers' canteens which require ration cards. Transportation is mostly by horsecart. Food for humans and feed for animals are scarce.

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- 1 -

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